# Responding to COVID-19

NATIONAL ACADEMY of MEDICINE

**The National Academy of Medicine was formed to provide scientific advice to the nation, and upon the emergence of the COVID-19 global pandemic early in 2020, mobilized quickly on a number of fronts to respond to the need for objective guidance.**

## Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats

In response to a request from the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a standing committee of experts to help inform the federal government on critical science and policy issues related to COVID-19 and other infectious disease threats. This committee issued a number of rapid expert consultations to the government on topics including surface stability and incubation, social distancing, crisis standards of care, bioaerosol spread, and impact of humidity on the virus, among others. Learn more at **www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/standing-committee-on-emerging-infectious-diseases-and-21st-century-health-threats.**

## COVID-19 Conversations Webinar Series

In partnership with the American Public Health Association, this webinar series explores the state of the science surrounding the current outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States and globally, with a focus on the emerging evidence on how to best mitigate its impact. The series convenes trusted experts in public health, infectious disease, risk communication, and crisis standards of care, among others, to provide evidence-based information to help guide the nation through the pandemic, amongst rapidly changing data and circumstances. The webinar series has covered topics including physical distancing, crisis standards of care, testing, COVID-19 and equity, treatment, development and distribution of a vaccine, clinical trials, and reopening of colleges and universities. Learn more at **covid19conversations.org.**

## Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine

In response to a request from the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Academies formed a committee that produced a consensus study to assist policymakers in the U.S. and global health communities in planning for equitable allocation of vaccines against COVID-19. In addition, the committee considered how communities of color can be assured access to COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. and strategies to mitigate vaccine hesitancy among the American public. Built on widely accepted foundational principles and recognizing the distinctive characteristics of COVID-19, this report's recommendations address the commitments needed to implement equitable allocation policies for the COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more at **nationalacademies.org/covidvaccineframework.**

## NAM Perspectives

The National Academy of Medicine's NAM Perspectives periodical provides a venue for leading health, medical, science, and policy experts to reflect on issues and opportunities important to the advancement of the NAM's mission. Early in the emergence of COVID-19, we published papers focused on coordinated communication from trusted sources during COVID-19 and best practices for crisis standards of care during COVID-19. NAM Perspectives continues to receive manuscripts focused on COVID-19 response and related issues, and additional papers will be published as the pandemic continues to evolve. Learn more at **nam.edu/perspectives.**

## Sector Assessments Highlighting COVID-19 Experiences, Insights, and Opportunities

The NAM Leadership Consortium: Collaboration for a Value & Science-Driven Health System is undertaking a sector-by-sector review of the experiences, lessons, and transformational opportunities for system-wide improvement that have been highlighted by the health system fragilities revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sectors that will be highlighted include: 1) patients, families, and consumers; 2) clinicians and professional societies; 3) care delivery organizations; 4) health information technology; 5) state and local public health; 6) health payers; 7) health product manufacturers and innovators; 8) health and biomedical research; and 9) quality, safety, and standards organizations. These sector assessments will be published as NAM Perspectives Discussion Papers and then bundled and released as an NAM Special Publication. Learn more at **nam.edu/transforminghealth**.

## Program-Specific Responses to COVID-19

As many of the focus areas of the NAM's programmatic activities have been impacted - and in many cases, exacerbated - by the COVID-19 pandemic, our individual programmatic activities are also responding to COVID-19 as best fits their audiences and program's focus. For example, the Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic held a webinar series in collaboration with the American Society of Addiction Medicine to disseminate evidence-based information on how to best treat and care for those with addiction during COVID-19. The Action Collaborative's Steering Committee also released priorities and strategies to protect the health of those with substance use disorders and who experience chronic pain during COVID-19. The Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience has authored a number of position papers calling for additional attention to and support of clinicians during the pandemic, as the pandemic has put additional pressure on the already faulty system that leads to clinician burnout. Learn more at **nam.edu/coronavirus**.